Case 2952

Paraphronima crassipes Claus, 1879 (Crustacea, Amphipoda): proposed conservation of the specific name

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the name *Paraphronima crassipes* Claus, 1879 for a pelagic amphipod (family PARAPHRONIMIDAE) which is widely distributed in tropical and temperate seas. The specific name is in universal usage but is threatened by the senior subjective synonym *Hyperia pedestris* Guérin-Méneville, 1836, unused for over a century.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Amphipoda; *Paraphronima crassipes*; pelagic amphipods.

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1. The specific name of *Hyperia pedestris* was established by Guérin-Méneville (1836, Crustacés, pl. 25, fig. 6) for a specimen found off the coast of Chile. A brief description was published in 1844, on p. 22 (Crustacés) of vol. 3 of the same work. The correct date for the foundation of species described in this work has been debated. Stebbing (1888, p. 162) says 'This work was published in livraisons between 1829 and 1844. The Plates containing Amphipoda probably all belong to the early part of 1836. An advertisement in the 'Quarante-cinquième livraison. Crustacés. Pl. 35,' says 'La 46e et dernière livraison se composera du Texte descriptif de l'Iconographie et paraîtra fin mars 1838,' but the promise was not, it appears, fulfilled till the end of 1843. The specific names, however, being given on the Plate, will carry the date 1836'. The date is confirmed by the reference made by Lucas (1836) when reporting Guérin-Méneville's species.

2. The specific name of *H. pedestris* has only been used in the scientific literature on two other occasions, firstly in the repetition (Lucas, 1845, p. 111) of the brief description given in the Lucas (1836) reference and secondly when Bovallius (1889, p. 25) discussed the species, relying only on Guérin-Méneville's work, and placed it in the genus *Paraphronima* Claus, 1879. Since then the name has been ignored, probably due to the apparent loss of type material and the inadequate original figure and description.

3. During a recent survey of invertebrate type specimens in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia much of Guérin-Méneville's crustacean type collection was rediscovered (Spamer, 1990; Spamer & Bogan, 1992), including the type of *Hyperia pedestris*. I have since examined the hyperiid amphipods of that collection (Zeidler, in press) and concur with Bovallius (1889) that *H. pedestris* is a species of *Paraphronima*. Unfortunately the type is virtually destroyed, the desiccated remains having been stuck to the bottom of the original vial but now removed. Under the microscope none of the appendages could be seen clearly but the pereonites and

pleonites were characteristic of *Paraphronima*. The figure of Guérin-Méneville (1836) and what I could make of the epimeral plates indicate that the species is most likely the same as *P. crassipes* Claus, 1879.

4. The nominal species *Paraphronima crassipes* was established by Claus (1879, p. 7, pl. 1, figs. 6–9; pl. 2, fig. 10), who gave a relatively brief description and good figures of the male and female. It is a relatively distinctive species and is readily distinguished by the shape of the epimeral plates from its only currently recognised congener, *P. gracilis* Claus, 1879. It is quite common in tropical and temperate seas. Selected citations are Reid (1955, p. 15, fig. 3), Hurley (1960a, p. 113; 1960b, p. 280), Pillai (1966, p. 210, fig. 4), Dick (1970, p. 54, fig. 5), Yoo (1971, p. 51), Thurston (1976, p. 407), Brusca (1981, p. 40, fig. 6a, c), Vinogradov et al. (1982, p. 258, fig. 127), Young & Anderson (1987, p. 712, fig. 3), Vinogradov (1990, p. 59) and Zeidler (1992, p. 97).

5. The rediscovery of Guérin-Méneville's type of *Hyperia pedestris* and my examination confirming it to belong to *Paraphronima*, and most likely to *P. crassipes*, raises the possibility of replacing the specific name *crassipes* by the senior subjective synonym *pedestris*. However, the name *pedestris* has remained unused in primary literature since Bovallius (1889; see para. 2 above) treated *P. pedestris* as a species separate from *P. crassipes* (which he discussed on pp. 30–32), and the work of the past century has not confirmed the existence of distinct taxa to which the two names might be applied. Adoption of the earlier name would cause unnecessary confusion and under Article 79c of the Code there is a prima facie case for its suppression.

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *pedestris* Guérin-Méneville, 1836, as published in the binomen *Hyperia pedestris*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;

(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *crassipes* Claus, 1879, as published in the binomen *Paraphronima crassipes*;

(3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *pedestris* Guérin-Méneville, 1836, as published in the binomen *Hyperia pedestris* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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